



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.DNK)

Homelessness in Denmark is defined as “those who do not have their own (owned or rented) accommodation or room, but who are referred to temporary or who live temporarily without a contract with family, friends, or acquaintances. Homeless persons are also defined as without a place to stay for the coming night.”

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.DNK)

- 5 789 individuals, representing 0.1% of the total population (2022)
- 23% are women, 77% are men
- Point-in-time count, based on Mapping of Homelessness in Denmark
- ETHOS Light groups included:
 - ☑ ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces
 - ☑ ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters)
 - ☑ ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women’s refuges)
 - ☑ ETHOS 4: People in institutions
 - ☐ ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents)
 - ☑ ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)

Legal framework to collect data on homelessness (Table 3.DNK)

There is no legal obligation to collect data on homelessness in Denmark.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.DNK)

- [National Agreement on Affordable Housing and the Effort to Combat Homelessness](#)

Approaches to collect data on homelessness (Table 5.DNK)

- Mapping of Homelessness in Denmark: Biennial national survey of people experiencing homelessness (Table 4.1.DNK)
- National Client Registration System: Ongoing collection of information of people experiencing homelessness (Table 4.2.DNK).

This project was funded by the European Union. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of the OECD member countries or the European Union.



Table 1.DNK. Official statistical definition of homelessness

Homelessness	<p>In the national Mapping of Homelessness in Denmark, homelessness is defined as follows: “Homeless people are those who do not have their own (owned) or rented) accommodation or room, but who are referred to temporary or who live temporarily without a contract with family, friends or acquaintances. Homeless persons are also defined as without a place to stay for the coming night.”</p> <p>This definition is then operationalised into eight categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overnight on the street, in a stairwell, in a shed or similar. 2. Overnights in a night heating room/residence with emergency accommodation or similar. 3. Overnights in emergency/temporary accommodation such as hostels and nursing homes. 4. Stays in a hotel, hostel or similar due to homelessness. 5. Lives temporarily and without a contract with family, friends or acquaintances. 6. Lives in temporary housing without a permanent contract. 7. Serving time under the Correctional Service, must be released within 1 month and lacks a housing solution. 8. Stays in hospital/treatment facilities, must be discharged within 1 month and lacks a housing solution. 9. Other things
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Table 2.DNK. Data on people experiencing homelessness

National data, presented according to [ETHOS Light Typology](#)

Headline estimate of homelessness (Individuals)	% of total population	ETHOS 1 People living rough	ETHOS 2 People in emergency accommodation	ETHOS 3 People in accommodation for the homeless	ETHOS 4 People living in institutions	ETHOS 5 People living in unconventional dwellings	ETHOS 6 People staying with family/friends
5 789 77% men 23% women	0.1%	535	248	2 955	195	Not included	1 152

Type of count: Point-in-time Flow

Year: 2022

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

Temporary accommodation for: Asylum seekers Refugees Victims of domestic violence

Note: Of the 5 789 individuals experiencing homelessness, the situation of 319 people was labeled ‘Other’, and for 385 individuals, the situation was not disclosed. The data do not include individuals without a permanent residence permit and/or a Danish Personal Identification Number (CPR number). Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH), 2023; Danish Centre for Social Science Research (2022), Mapping of Homelessness in Denmark.

Table 3.DNK. Legal framework to collect data on homelessness

Law that governs data collection on homelessness	None.
Legal obligations	None.

Table 4.DNK. National homelessness strategy

National homelessness strategy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: National Agreement on Affordable Housing and the Effort to Combat Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Table 5.DNK. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

5.1.DNK. Mapping of Homelessness in Denmark	
Description	
National survey of homelessness over a week through social services, civil society organisations and local authorities. First, the Danish Centre for Social Science Research delimits the social services, civil society organisations and the local authorities to be targeted. Second, people experiencing homelessness using the targeted services fill out an individual questionnaire over the reference period.	
Type of count generated	Methods
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service-based method • Street Count
Lead authority(ies)	Source(s) of information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Elderly Care. • Danish Centre for Social Science Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers interview people experiencing homelessness directly and then report the data.
Scope	Depth of data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National scope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-demographic characteristics are taken into account and the data is disaggregated by: sex, age, duration of homelessness, ethnic background, etc).
Frequency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every two years (in 2021 it was postponed to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic). 	
ETHOS Light groups included	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women's refuges) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 4: People in institutions <input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)	
Note: Each ETHOS Light group includes one or more sub-categories of living situations. ETHOS Light groups are considered as "included" in the data collection approach if at least one of the sub-categories is counted.	
Notes	
Official report	

**5.2.DNK. National client registration system****Description**

Danish authorities collect data on shelter use through the “National Client Registration System”, which provides data on the number of shelters stays and their length, as well as information about the users which are linked with other variables obtained through administrative data. Individuals accessing services must register their unique “Central Personal Register (CRP) number”, which serves as a personal identifier and allows for information to be collected on shelter use and length of stay. This system is used in conjunction with the Mapping of Homelessness in Denmark (See table 4.1.DNK).

Type of count generated <input type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period)	Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information management system on individuals experiencing homelessness
Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Social Appeals Board in conjunction with other institutions (Statistics Denmark, etc.). Data usage is allowed by then Danish Data Protection agency. 	Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shelters report the data to the authorities.
Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National level 	Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on shelter use and stay is then crossed with sociodemographic variables (background variables) obtained from administrative data (which is facilitated by service providers)
Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	

ETHOS Light groups included

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Note: Each ETHOS Light group includes one or more sub-categories of living situations. ETHOS Light groups are considered as “included” in the data collection approach if at least one of the sub-categories is counted.

Notes